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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference ZN001	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/KR2003/001617	International filing date (day/month/year) 09 AUGUST 2003 (09.08.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 09 AUGUST 2002 (09.08.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC IPC7 G06F 15/00		
Applicant PARK, Seung-bae et al		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets, including this cover sheet.
- ☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).
- These annexes consist of a total of _____ sheets.
3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:
- I ☒ Basis of the report
 - II ☐ Priority
 - III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
 - IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
 - V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
 - VI ☐ Certain documents cited
 - VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
 - VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 08 MARCH 2004 (08.03.2004)	Date of completion of this report 24 NOVEMBER 2004 (24.11.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/KR  Korean Intellectual Property Office 920 Dunsan-dong, Seo-gu, Daejeon 302-701, Republic of Korea Facsimile No. 82-42-472-7140	Authorized officer CHUN, DAE NYUNG Telephone No. 82-42-481-5991 

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/KR2003/001617

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

- ☒ the international application as originally filed
- ☐ the description:
 pages _____, as originally filed
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____
- ☐ the claims:
 pages _____, as originally filed
 pages _____, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____
- ☐ the drawings:
 pages _____, as originally filed
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____
- ☐ the sequence listing part of the description:
 pages _____, as originally filed
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language English which is

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☒ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, Nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets _____

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this opinion as "originally filed." and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item I and annexed to this report.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

International application No.

PCT/KR2003/001617

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-64	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-64	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-64	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: US 6,209,102 (AROCOT SYSTEM, INC.) Mar. 27, 2001

D2: US 5,428,349 (DANIEL G. BAKER) Jun. 27, 1995

D3: US 5,815,083 (JACQUES PATRIN) Sep. 29, 1998

D1 discloses a method and apparatus for secure entry to minimize a risk of losing a password to an attacker who has physical access to the computer environment. The password can be entered via a plurality of user-selectable fields, each of which takes on a series of values, the initially displayed values of which are established in a random or otherwise unpredictable manner.

D2 discloses a password method selecting either the row or column containing each letter of a memorized password.

D3 is related to a process for entry of a confidential piece of information furnished by a user at a terminal, this information comprising several signs which belong to a first series of signs referred to herein also as authenticating signs.

1. Novelty (PCT Article 33(2))

The present invention as defined in claims 1-64 is a method and system for processing a password inputted by the matching of cells that are capable of preventing a password from being revealed to others in such a manner that a password inputted by a certain person is not known to others even when another person watches a password input procedure. Though the objective of the invention which is to prevent watching a password input procedure by another person is similar to that of the references, the cell-based matching algorithm with the reference board and the match board of the invention is not found in the references. Thus, the subject-matter of claims 1-64 is novel under PCT Article 33(2).

2. Inventive Step (PCT Article 33(3))

The password input method by cell matching is capable of preventing the password from being revealed to others who watch the password input procedure, overcoming user's uneasiness during a password input and enhancing the security of the system. The subject-matter of the claims is considered to involve an inventive step under PCT Article 33(3) because the references do not disclose the detailed mechanism by cell matching.

3. Industrial Applicability (PCT Article 33(4))

All claims are considered to be industrially applicable.